

# GERMAN GUNS HEAVILY BOMBARDING LINES AROUND VILLERS BRETONNEUX

## THENNES ATTACKS SMASHED BY FIRE OF FRENCH SHELLS

ENEMY TESTING OUT POSITIONS OF AL-LIES—FINDING U. S. FORCES ARE IM-MOVABLE BARRIER IN PATH TO AMIENS FOE FEELS OUT FRENCH

The Germans are displaying increased activity on the Somme battle front and around the Montdidier salient to Noyon, probably in preparation for a renewal of their offensive in this area.

Checked last week by the stiff British and Franco-American resistance to their attempt to push further toward Amiens, the enemy forces now are trying out various portions of the southern front in the apparent endeavor to find a weak spot.

One such effort, directed against positions held by American troops, already has been chronicled. The enemy found an unyielding barrier here and retired with nothing but heavy losses to show for his attempt.

Last night there was a similar thrust at the French in the Thennes region, southwest of Hangard. The artillery promptly broke up this drive.

This morning the Germans guns opened up rather heavily in the Villers Bretonneux area, just to the north and directly east of Amiens, but no infantry attacks had developed up to the time the British official statement was issued at noon.

Meanwhile the lull that followed the severe German defeat of Monday has continued on the Flanders front. Only the artillery has been displaying activity there.

The German guns were reported opening a somewhat spirited fire this morning in the region of Merris, indicating the possibility of the renewal of the German efforts on the northern front, when it comes, may be developed on the Bailleul-Hazebrouck road, of which Merris marks the farthest westward advance of the enemy. The British have been holding this line strongly, as guarding the direct route to the vitally important Hazebrouck railroad station.

Apparently the Germans are not prepared to break the second lull in the Flanders battle until still more troops and greater concentrations of cannon are massed along the few important miles of the front southwest of Ypres. Signs are not wanting that Gen. Von Arnim is bringing up reinforcements and supplies, but the Anglo-French troops, stirred by the brilliant repulse of the enemy which caused him to cease his attacks for the second time, wait confidently.

As the first break in the hard fighting was followed by stronger attacks, it is probable that only the difficulties of transport and supply compel the enemy to withhold further assaults against the Allied positions from the Mont Kemmel region westward. Except for Mont Kemmel and a small strip to the east, including the Messines ridge, the Germans are on much lower ground than the French or British and must either fight on or be compelled eventually to withdraw before the smothering fire of the Allied artillery.

Heavy artillery firing and the usual outpost actions, continue along the front. Around the important sector of Lore the French have been shelled by the enemy. On the southern leg of the salient the German guns have been active in the region of Bethune. Southward, in Picardy, only the artillery has been active.

American troops in Picardy east of Amiens have engaged the German infantry for the first time on the great battle field and have emerged victorious. After shelling heavily the American positions near Villers Bretonneux, south of the Somme and in the direct route to Amiens, three enemy battalions attacked on Tuesday night. Sharp fighting took place all along the line and the Germans were repulsed, having suffered severe losses and leaving dead and wounded on the field. The American losses are reported as "rather severe."

Fighting for democracy and for freedom of their home land, Bohemian and Slav detachments now are facing Austro-Hungarian troops along the sectors in northern Italy. Apparently these units have been recruited

## LIFE SAVING DEVICES FAULTY

Loss of 66 Lives When Collision Occurred Due to This Fact.

### LOCAL WOMAN ON VESSEL RESCUED

Mrs. Charles B. Levy is Saved by Members of Cruiser's Crew.

An Atlantic Port, May 2—Survivors of the coastwise steamer City of Athens, which was sunk in a collision with a French cruiser in a fog off the Delaware coast yesterday morning with a loss of 66 persons, related here today many tales of heroism on the part of the crews of the two vessels.

Listed among the survivors were Mrs. Charles B. Levy of Bridgeport, Conn., who sailed Monday for a short vacation to Birmingham, Ala., to visit her three sisters. She was taken ashore immediately after the collision and taken to a hospital.

Her husband, Charles B. Levy, advertising manager of the Hadley Furniture Co., left this morning for the scene of the accident and will return with his wife as soon as she is discharged from the hospital. The Levy residence at 431 John street, Bridgeport, and formerly lived in Birmingham, Ala.

All praised the efforts of the French sailors, especially those who launched small boats within a few minutes after the accident and aided by the cruiser's searchlights, picked up many of the survivors from pieces of wreckage.

The survivors agreed that the speedy sinking of the steamer, within five minutes after being rammed by the warship, was responsible for the City of Athens' life saving apparatus failing to work properly. There were 135 persons, including 24 United States marines, on board the steamer, which was bound from New York with a \$2,000,000 cargo of oil, rope, foodstuffs and general merchandise on board.

Mrs. Florence Pickard Harrison, wife of a New York real estate agent, whose father, Winchell L. Pickard, is president of Meyer university, Macon, Ga., told today how her life, those of her two-year-old baby and two others were saved through the bravery of a negro fireman of the City of Athens.

Wakened from her sleep, Mrs. Harrison barely had time to put a coat over her night dress and hurry to the deck with her child. "I saw a lifeboat," she said, "but no one was paying any attention to it, except a United States marine, who lifted the baby into the boat. I was about to climb in with him when the steamer toppled and my grasp on the gunwale slipped. I caught up the baby as the ship sank under the swirling waters. When I came up choking and almost unconscious from the water, with the little one in my arms, we were directly under the bow of a lifeboat."

"A man whom I afterward learned was James Wallace of Savannah lifted the baby from my arms. When I regained consciousness I found myself in the lifeboat, covered with a piece of canvas which I wrapped around the baby. My coat and night gown were torn from the struggle to drag me in. After that Wallace rescued one marine and a civilian. That brave negro deserves a hero medal."

"We were in the lifeboat for about two hours before we were picked up by the crew of the French cruiser. I cannot speak too highly of the gallantry and kindness of the French officers and men during our rescue and the time spent on the cruiser."

## BREWERY WORKER FOUND CHAINED TO BRASS CANNON

San Jose, Cal., May 3—Tattered and feathered and chained to a brass cannon in a city park, George Koetzer, a brewery worker, was found early today by the police, who took him to the city prison. Koetzer, who was accused of pro-German activities, told the police that "Knights of Liberty," wearing black coats over their heads, took him from his room, carried him in an automobile five miles into the country last night, where they applied the coat of tar and feathers, and then brought him back to the park.

He said another man was given the same treatment.

## GERMANS TAKE OVER RULE IN CITY OF KIEV

Arrest Government Officials Including Ukrainian Minister of War.

London, May 2 — The Germans have established military rule in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, and have arrested a number of the members of the government on the ground that "the government had proved too weak to maintain law and order," according to a Berlin official statement.

The Ukrainian government officials arrested included the minister of war.

## WILL PUBLISH ADDRESSES IN CASUALTY LIST

Washington, May 2—The War Department will resume almost immediately the practice of giving addresses of American soldiers in the casualty lists sent from France.

The decision was made by President Wilson, to whom the public appealed when the addresses were ordered discontinued. The President took up the subject with Secretary Baker immediately after the secretary's return from France.

Publication of addresses was discontinued on March 8. Explaining at the time why the order was issued, the War Department said publication gave information to the enemy and brought swarms of claim agents to harass relatives of men killed.

The President took the subject up when the Committee on Public Information refused to handle the list on the ground that the names without addresses were valueless for publication purposes.

## PERMIT GIVEN TO CHANGE ROAD AT ZOAR BRIDGE

Judge Donald T. Warner in the Superior Court today heard the application of the Connecticut Light & Power Co. for the relocation of a highway near Stevensons, a station upon the Berkshire division of the New Haven railroad, which is made necessary by the construction of the big water storage reservoir and dam of the power company near Zoar Bridge. There was no opposition, and Judge Warner will sign the order after it has been prepared according to direction given in court.

J. Henry Roraback appeared as the principal witness in favor of the change. By the construction of the new dam across the Housatonic river below the site of the present Zoar bridge, the highway, and bridge, will be 40 feet under water. To compensate for this the company has built a highway on the top of the new dam. This necessitates a relocation of the present highway for a distance of about three-fourths of a mile upon each side of the river. For part of this distance the new road will parallel the railroad tracks and under the statutes the permission of the Superior Court is needed.

The highway also extends through parts of towns in Fairfield and Litchfield counties, and consent of the county authorities is necessary.

Roraback explained by the aid of maps, and questions by Attorney A. J. Hull, counsel for the company, what is proposed to be done. First Selectman Edwards S. Beardsley of Monroe, was present, and said his town had no objection to the change.

Under the plan of the power company a lake is created about 25 miles long, and several miles wide in parts, held in control by a new dam about 150 feet in height. The object of the power company is to supply electric power, using the fall of the river from the dam to generate the electricity.

## SWISS CITIZEN SHOT AS SPY

Paris, May 3—A Swiss citizen named Nivergel was executed as a spy at dawn today in Versailles. The Swiss government had made representations in his behalf, but no reason was found by the French government to modify the sentence of death pronounced by a court martial three months ago.

Nivergel faced the firing squad calmly.

## JITNEUR IS ROBBED BY HIS FARE

Drives Youth to Long Hill and is Held Up With Revolver.

### AUTO ALSO TAKEN AND DEMOLISHED

Bandit Obtained His Own Money and Sixty Cents of Victim.

As Samuel Reisner, a jitney driver, was proceeding along Fairfield avenue last night about 9:30 he was hailed by a man of about medium build and 20 years of age, who wanted to go to Long Hill. Reisner stated that the fare would be \$2. This was agreeable and the journey started.

When in the vicinity of Long Hill, the unidentified passenger produced a six-shooter of formidable proportions and placing the muzzle near Reisner's head demanded that he hand over the roll. This amounted to the two dollars which he had already collected from the bandit-passenger and 65 cents in change which he happened to have.

Satisfying himself that he had "cleaned" the pilot, the unknown man threw Reisner out of the machine and climbing into the chauffeur's seat he drove the car at racing speed in the direction of Bridgeport.

Half stunned by the fall Reisner struggled to his feet and went in the direction of Long Hill in search of help. He arrived in the town some time after 11 o'clock and reported the holdup to Sheriff Berger. The sheriff and a small posse at once went in pursuit of the bandit, and arriving at a stretch of woodland not far from the scene of the robbery, they discovered the automobile completely wrecked, but the bandit had disappeared.

Organizing his force the sheriff set out in pursuit along the route most likely to be taken by the hold-up man, but after an hour's fruitless search the chase was abandoned and the party returned to the machine only to find that some one had been there and had stolen one of the wheels with a perfectly good tire attached.

Leaving a guard over the remains, the sheriff then escorted Reisner to the trolley line and paid his fare back to Bridgeport.

Upon arriving in Bridgeport Reisner passed some remark about "hick detectives" and went to police headquarters where he reported the hold up and the wrecking of his car.

The case has been taken in hand by Detective Captain E. O. Cronan, who has detailed some of his force to the task of locating the hold-up man if he is in Bridgeport.

## AVIATOR ARRIVES ON FRENCH BOAT

An Atlantic Port, May 2—William A. Wellman, a 23-year-old aviator who served six months in a French flying squadron, arrived here today on a French steamer on his way to his home in Cambridge, Mass., to recuperate from an injury he received when his machine fell behind the German lines on March 29.

He was shot down by an anti-aircraft gun, but landed in a forest hurtling his back, and succeeded in making his way into the American lines. He said he plans to return to France and join the Americans. He wore a French war cross.

Wellman said the American soldiers were "the pride and admiration of the French army." Regarding his own experience he told of downing two German aeroplanes in January with the aid of Thomas Hitchcock, an American aviator, who now is a prisoner in Germany.

## GAIN OF \$49,000,000 IN LIBERTY BONDS

New York, May 2—An overnight gain of \$49,000,000 brought the Liberty loan total up to \$682,100,000 in the New York federal reserve district at 10 a. m. today.

## NATIONAL TOTAL IS \$2,641,631,850

Washington, May 2—Telegrams pouring into national Liberty loan headquarters today told of the success of the "Buy Another Bond" and "Match the President" contests everywhere yesterday, and added \$62,000,000 subscriptions, making the national total \$2,641,631,850.

## CHAIN OFFICERS TO SUBSCRIBE \$100,000; DRIVE NEARS CLOSE

ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT TO BUY LIBERTY BONDS—TODAY'S OFFICIAL FIGURES PLACE TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AROUND \$6,150,000 MARK.

The Liberty Loan machinery in Bridgeport will close at three o'clock Saturday afternoon according to information given out this morning by the committee. Arrangements have been made with the various banks to "keep open until that hour, for the benefit of late subscribers, instead of closing at noon.

The last subscriptions will be taken at 3 o'clock Saturday and the staff of workers will commence tabulating returns immediately in order to have the completed result by early evening.

The several banks will receive subscriptions on the government plan and cash basis up until the closing hour while the savings banks will receive applications for bonds on their individual dollar a week plan. From now until the closing hour the committee and corps of workers will put all their strength in bringing in the greatest possible number of subscriptions.

The committee does not look forward to a great increase in the last few days of the drive, and the figure set forth which will undoubtedly be reached, is placed at \$6,500,000; today's official figures are placed at \$6,150,000.

The plan to raise double the city's quota was thought of when the great volume of subscriptions from the various factories was turned in several days ago, but it was realized the laborers had put forth their best and were not in a position to raise more and as the large subscribers had already come forward, the plan was given up as hopeless.

Walker B. Lasher, as representative of the American Chain Co., has announced that his company is to subscribe \$100,000, which includes the amount raised by individual employees which totalled about \$7,000, with the city committee. This amount is in addition to the subscriptions for \$250,000, which the Chain concern is subscribing with the committees in the several cities where branch plants are maintained.

The policemen continue to do excellent work in their combing drive and promise to pass the figures which the firemen have made in their outside canvass. The bluecoats have been at work but a few days, but are going over the territory carefully and are bringing out large numbers of bond buyers.

The members of the fourth precinct are establishing a record for themselves as salesmen and lead all of their fellow workers in their special drive. The fourth precinct men have secured subscriptions for a total of \$25,500, the third precinct is next in line with sales totalling \$16,000, while the first precinct members have received pledges for \$15,550 and the second precinct is on the tail end of the list with \$9,000. The guardians of the law have, up until this noon, brought in subscriptions totalling \$58,200, which is outside of the individual sales made among the members of the force on the opening day of the campaign.

The Boy Scout campaign is very gratifying to the workers and the Liberty Loan committee. The following idea, which is the boys' part in the drive, is bringing forward a large number of buyers. The various troops yesterday made sales and took pledges for \$47,000 worth of bonds. They commenced today to go back over the original territory assigned them by the leaders of the troops during the first few days of the drive. It is expected that the greater majority of the persons residing in the different sections will be owners of bonds after the final combing is completed. The boys will in all probability wind up their drive Saturday morning in order to have their report ready for the Bridgeport committee at the closing hour in the afternoon.

Employees of the Connecticut Company, numbering 213, have subscribed for a total of \$12,300 according to a report given the committee. This subscription does not come through the committee as the company is taking subscriptions through the Aetna Life Insurance Co. agency at Hartford.

The firemen have brought their grand total up to \$110,800 and are rounding up here and there many subscribers. Their drive has been more or less of a silent nature and without much heralding and assignment to special work the "smoke eaters" have done excellent work. Although the police promise to outshine the firemen, it is said that they will have to go some.

The women's committee is still at work although no official announcement of their work was reported this morning by Mrs. William T. Hincks chairman of the committee.

## BURIED WHISKEY JUGS UNDER HIS MONUMENT

EGGENTRIC PUTNAM CHARACTER WHO SET UP BUST ON SITE OF GRAVE, BUT OBJECTED TO WAY WHISKERS WERE PARTED—DIED TODAY FROM SHOCK.

Putnam, May 2—Phineas Gardner Wright, born in Fitzwilliam, N. H., on April 3, 1829, 12 years had a grave stone placed on a lot in Grove street cemetery bearing the inscription:

"Going but know not where."

Today he died from shock. He was well known throughout the city by reason of his opinions. In summer for years it was his practice to go about barefooted, as he thought this a way to conserve his health. At the time he ordered a grave stone, he provided for a bust of himself to be set upon it. A sculptor made the model, but the work when completed showed Wright with whiskers parted, and he had the bust refused without the parting. After the grave stone was a up a report spread that Wright had placed under it jugs of whiskey in order that the grave diggers might not go dry while preparing a grave. Wright denied he had done this, but the story was often told. Mr. Wright was quite wealthy, it is believed. He had a collection of post cards from all over the world.

PASS \$2,000,000 MARK.

New Britain, May 2 — This city passed the \$2,000,000 mark in its Liberty loan campaign today, the figures being \$2,102,550. The allotment for New Britain was \$1,582,000.

## MRS. TOMPKINS GRIEF CAUSES HER OWN DEATH

Deeply shocked by the death of her son, James Levi Tompkins, Mrs. Elizabeth Tompkins, of Torrington, passed away at her home in that town last night, after making a journey to this city where she visited her dying son. James Levi Tompkins, died in this city, Tuesday, and his mother, who was here at the time, was overcome with grief. She was taken to Torrington last night, but lived only a few hours after returning to her home.

The funeral of James Levi Tompkins, was held this afternoon from the funeral parlors of Henry E. Bishop, 274 Fairfield avenue. The body was sent to Torrington, where interment will be made. The funeral of Mrs. Tompkins will be held from her late home in Torrington.

## TWO SUFFOCATE IN FIRE ABOARD SOUND STEAMER

An Atlantic Port, May 2—Two men lost their lives and another is in a serious condition at a hospital as a result of a fire aboard the bay steamer New Shoreham at her dock here early today. Nine other men on board escaped or were rescued. The dead men were deck hands. They were asleep in the forecabin when the fire was discovered and were suffocated when they tried to make their way through the smoke to the staircase.

The flames, believed to have started from the galley stove, swept through both the lower and the upper decks, badly damaging the steamer.

New Jersey has "gone over the top" in the third loan.